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PEG AND HOOP EXERCISING TOY

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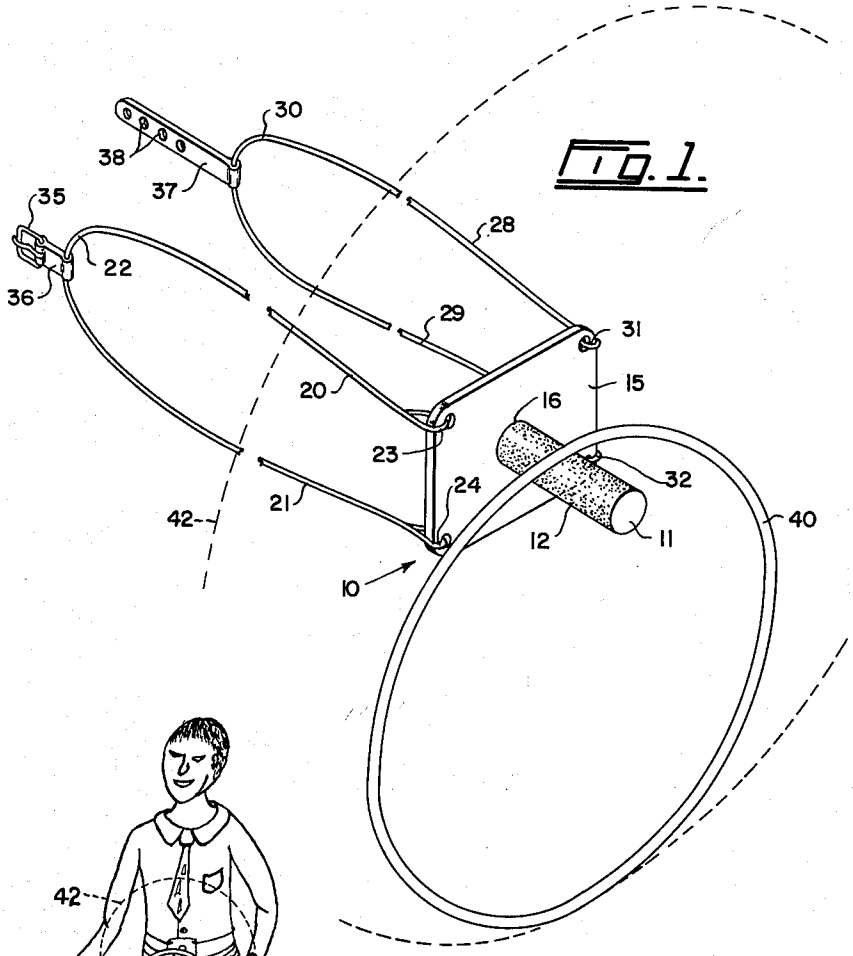


Fig. 1.

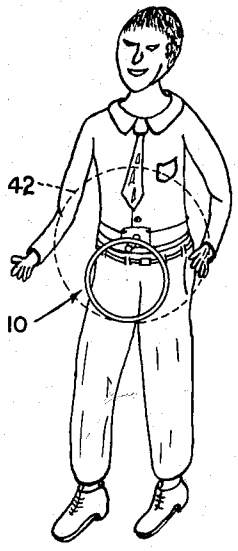


Fig. 2.

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PEG AND HOOP EXERCISING TOY

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This invention relates to hoop exercising toys.

An object of the present invention is the provision of a toy which requires skill for its operation, and provides considerable enjoyment and fun during the manipulation thereof.

Another object is the provision of a toy adapted to be attached to parts of a person's body and which requires manipulation of the body for its operation, thereby providing considerable exercise.

The vast majority of the toys on the market today merely provide amusement, but do not require any effort on the part of the person playing with it and does not require any great show of intelligence for its operation. The present toy is such that it requires the operator to concentrate on what he is doing, and it requires considerable skill for its operation. In addition to this, it takes considerable exertion to operate the toy so that the person manipulating it is at the same time exercising himself. In spite of the fact that skill and exercise are required, the operation of the toy provides enjoyment for the person operating it and for anyone looking on during the operation.

The toy may be attached to different parts of the body. It may be attached to a person's waist so that it is manipulated by the person twisting his torso through regular gyrations. Furthermore, the toy may be attached to a person's head, back, arm or leg, thus requiring different types of skill, and exercising different parts of the body. This helps to maintain interest since once a person becomes skilled at operating the toy with one part of his body, he can change it to another where he has to learn a different form of manipulation. Considerable enjoyment is provided for the user and onlookers when the user attaches the toy to a portion of his body which he does not manipulate any too well.

A hoop exercising toy according to the present invention comprises the combination of a peg, securing means connected to the peg for attaching it to part of a person's body with the peg projecting substantially horizontally outwardly therefrom, and a hoop adapted to be hung on said peg in order that the person by manipulating said part of his body, may cause the hoop to swing around the peg. Although it seems to be a simple matter to manipulate the toy properly, it is not so easy, and a person has to practice a great deal in order to learn how to manipulate his body in order to cause the hoop to swing around the peg without falling off of it. In a preferred form of the invention, the peg has a friction surface. This prevents the hoop from sliding off the peg too easily, and it seems to give a person a little better control of the hoop than he would have without the friction surface.

A preferred form of the invention is illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawings, in which,

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the hoop exercising toy, and

FIGURE 2 diagrammatically illustrates the toy attached to a person approximately at his waist.

Referring to the drawings, **10** is a hoop exercising toy comprising a peg **11** which is preferably circular in cross section. Although not absolutely necessary, it is definitely preferable to provide the peg with a friction surface. The surface may be roughened in any suitable manner, such as by coarse sandpaper, or it may have a layer of sandpaper applied thereto, but the most satisfactory way of providing the friction surface is to apply a coat **12** of a rubberized cement which coagulates on drying to produce a rough rubbery coating that is almost tacky.

Suitable means is provided to enable the peg to be attached to parts of a person's body. A preferred way of doing this is to provide a base **15** to which the inner end **16** of peg **12** is firmly secured. This peg is located centrally of the base and is normal thereto. Securing means is connected to the base to attach the latter to the operator or manipulator. As it is desirable to attach the peg to the operator in such a way that he has control of the movement thereof, the attaching means is preferably in the form of cords secured to opposite edges of base **15**. In this example, spaced cords **20** and **21** are secured to base **15** at one side of peg **11**. These cords have ends which are secured together at **22**. Actually, cords **20** and **21** may be formed of a single cord which is connected at one end **23** to a corner of the base, and at its other end **24** to a lower corner of said base. Similarly, spaced cords **28** and **29** are connected at other ends at **30**. Cords **28** and **29** are actually formed from a single cord attached at one end **31** to a corner of base **15**, and at an opposite end **32** to a lower corner of the base.

Suitable means is provided for releasably connecting the outer ends of pairs of cords **20–21** and **28–29** together. In this example, a buckle **35** is connected by a short strap **36** to the ends of cords **20–21**, and a strap **37** is connected to the other ends of cords **28–29**, said strap having a plurality of spaced holes **38** therein.

Toy **10** is completed by a hoop **40** formed of plastic or other suitable material. This hoop is adapted to be hung on peg **11**. The hoop may be of any desired size, but it is preferably not too big relative to the peg. For example, with a peg of about one inch in diameter, the hoop would be about 15 inches in diameter. However, it is to be understood that these dimensions may be altered as desired.

FIGURE 2 diagrammatically illustrates the exercising toy **10** attached to the player's waist. Cords **20–21** and **28–29** extend around the sides of the body, and strap **37** is attached to buckle **35** at the player's back firmly to hold base **15** against the front of the body with peg **11** projecting substantially horizontally outwardly therefrom. The object of the game is to manipulate the body so as to move peg **15** substantially through a circular path while maintaining it approximately horizontal to cause hoop **40** to swing rapidly around the peg. If the toy is manipulated properly, the hoop swings around the peg with its outermost portion travelling along the path **42** indicated by a broken line in FIGURE 1. This requires a great deal of concentration and thought, and during the manipulation of the body, the player has to use muscles throughout his entire body, both those which are commonly used and many which are not often used. Thus, considerable skill is required and a player exercises approximately his entire body. It has been found that the necessary gyrations and the difficulties involved create a lot of enjoyment for both the player and anyone observing his operation.

Toy **10** may be applied to other parts of the body, such as, for example, the head, back, arm, leg, etc. Different skills are required for manipulating the toy properly by means of the different parts of the body. It will readily be seen that a great deal of fun can be created when a person attempts to swing the hoop around the peg with a part of the body he has some difficulty in manipulating.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A hoop exercising toy comprising, in combination, a flat base, a peg projecting outwardly from the base and having an unobstructed outer end, securing means con-

nected to the base for holding said base flatly and firmly against the front of a person's body with the peg projecting substantially horizontally outwardly from said body, and a hoop adapted to be hung on said peg in order that the person by manipulating his body may cause the hoop to swing around the peg.

2. A hoop exercising toy comprising, in combination, a flat base, a peg projecting outwardly from the base and having a roughened friction surface and an unobstructed outer end, securing means connected to the base for holding said base flatly and firmly against the front of a person's body with the peg projecting substantially horizontally outwardly from said body, and a hoop adapted to be hung on said peg in order that the person by manipulating his body may cause the hoop to swing around the peg, said roughened friction surface helping to keep the hoop from slipping off the unobstructed end of the peg during proper manipulation of the body to keep the toy in operation.

3. A hoop exercising toy comprising, in combination, a flat base, a peg projecting outwardly from the base substantially centrally thereof and having an unobstructed outer end, a pair of spaced cords secured to the base on one side of the peg, a pair of spaced cords secured to the base on the other side of the peg, each pair of cords having outer ends secured together, means for removably securing the outer ends of the two pairs of cords together, whereby the base may be held firmly against the front of a person's body with the peg projecting substantially

horizontally outwardly from said body, and a hoop adapted to be hung on said peg in order that the person by manipulating his body may cause the hoop to swing around the peg.

4. A hoop exercising toy comprising, in combination, a flat base, a peg projecting outwardly from the base substantially centrally thereof and having a roughened friction surface and an unobstructed outer end, a pair of spaced cords secured to the base on one side of the peg, a pair of spaced cords secured to the base on the other side of the peg, each pair of cords having outer ends secured together, means for removably securing the outer ends of the two pairs of cords together, whereby the base may be held firmly against the front of a person's body with the peg projecting substantially horizontally outwardly from said body, and a hoop adapted to be hung on said peg in order that the person by manipulating his body may cause the hoop to swing around the peg, said roughened friction surface helping to keep the hoop from slipping off the unobstructed end of the peg during proper manipulation of said body to keep the toy in operation.

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